

REMARKS

The specification and claims have been carefully reviewed in the light of the Office Action to which this amendment is responsive. By this amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to improve its form and to distinguish even more clearly over the prior art. New claim 10 has been added for more completely covering applicant's invention.

Claims 1-9 have been rejected as being anticipated by Lasnier et al. (FR 2 569 253); claims 1-2 and 4-9 have been alternatively rejected as being anticipated by Scheiwer (US 1,135,222); and claim 3 has been rejected as being obvious over Scheiwer in view of Lasnier et al. Reconsideration of such rejections is respectfully requested. As background to the invention, applicant's specification points out the deficiencies of prior art quick disconnect coupling adaptors. Typically they have been relatively complicated in construction, time consuming to assemble onto existing threaded hose fittings, and created additional potential points of leakage. Applicant's invention relates to a relatively simple coupling which includes a one piece male fitting and a one piece female fitting which can be readily assembled directly into hose elements and which permit easy coupling and decoupling without threaded engagement between adaptor components. More particularly, the coupling includes a spring biased collar mounted on the one piece female fitting for movement between locked and unlocked positions. The collar is manually moveable against the biasing force of the spring to the unlocked position to permit disengagement of the coupling. Release of the collar returns it to its ready position for receiving and locking engagement with the male fitting.

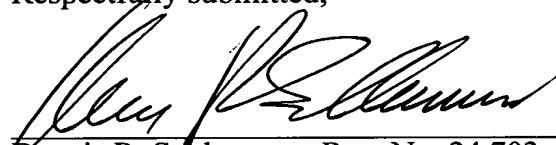
In contrast, Lasnier et al. discloses a relatively complicated coupling which includes a multi-part threadedly coupled female fitting, a spring biased valve plunger, and a spring biased collar. To uncouple the coupling, the male fitting must be forced into the female fitting against the biasing force of the valve plunger, enabling the spring to urge the collar to an unlocked position. In distinct contrast, applicant's invention includes one piece male and female fittings, and a locking collar that is biased to a locking position, not an unlocking position. Scheiwer discloses an adapter typical of the prior art, in which the male fitting must be threaded onto a threaded fitting of the hose as a first connection, and thereafter coupled to the female connection, which itself has a two-part threaded construction. Scheiwer also includes a complex valving mechanism.

In re Appln. of *Gus Alexander et al.*
Application No. 10/674,028

Hence, the prior art is believed to lack any disclosure or suggestion of applicant's invention as called for in claim 1, which includes one piece male and female fittings which are coupled with minimal junctures for possible leakage, and which can be easily coupled and engaged through simple retraction of the spring biased collar, without interaction with valving mechanisms or the like. Since the remaining claims all are dependent upon claim 1, for similar reasons they are believed to distinguish over the art.

From the foregoing, it is believed that the claims as now presented all are directed to features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art so as to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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